

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Official Communication regarding Non-Responsive Amendment (Bona fide) mailed on February 25, 2008, Applicant requests reconsideration in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner alleges that the Applicant's reply filed on November 16, 2007, is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because Applicant did not indicate which of the newly added claims (*i.e.* claims 98-99) are readable upon the elected species in accordance with MPEP §809.02(a).

Applicant responds that newly added claims, 98 and 99, are each readable upon the elected species of: beta-lactamase TEM-1 having a junction at E197/L198 and the newly added claims are also readable on elected subgroup 14: a fusion protein comprised of a bacterial signal peptide, and a linker (Gly4Ser)₃. Newly added claim 98 recites an embodiment where the first interactor domain is fused through a first flexible polypeptide linker and the second interactor domain is fused through a second flexible polypeptide linker. Newly added claim 99 recites an embodiment where the linkers of claim 98 are between 3 and 30 amino acids in length.

In light of the above, Applicants believe that the amendment filed on November 16, 2007, is now fully responsive to the prior Office Action, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/764,163
Amdt. dated March 7, 2008
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2008

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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